



CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 82

4A Blanchard Road

Cumberland, ME 04021

President:	Carolyn Small
Vice Presidents:	Diana Copp
	Annemarie Dawson
Secretary:	Pat Larrabee
Treasurer:	Sue Wall
Trustees:	Herbert S. Foster, Jr.
	Brian Jensen
	Lynda Wilson Jensen
	Linda Fulda

MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of the Society shall be to collect and preserve artifacts pertaining to the Town of Cumberland and its history, making it available to groups, schools, and individuals.

MAY 2014 VOLUME 109

MAY THOUGHT:

It's spring fever.... You don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!
Mark Twain

UPDATES:

Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 PM, there will be a brief, members only informational meeting at the Cumberland Historical Society.

The collection of items for the Ultimate Yard Sale continues. People have been letting us know what sorts of things they are collecting to add to the table. Saturday, May 10, we will have our first workshop to sort and price the items. This will be done at the Exhibition hall at Cumberland Fairgrounds. Keep those things in mind that you would like to donate. Arrangements can be made to pick up donations if you call Carolyn Small at 415-4589 or 829-3757. Linda Fulda, John Fulda, Lynda Jensen, and Carolyn Small have started the sorting and pricing at the Exhibition Hall. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week will also be work days for this project. Help is certainly needed, because we are beginning to get a lot of stuff! Times will be 9:00Am to noon each day. Just show up at the Exhibition hall and you will be put to work.

Thanks to Linda and John Fulda for raking the lawns at Historical Society. Soon there will be flowers planted in the window boxes.

Thus far, the nomination committee will offer the current slate of officers as the slate for election in June. Any other suggestions will be accepted.

Lynda Jensen, Linda Fulda and Carolyn Small will attend a SOLVE meeting on May 19 at Casco. If anyone else is interested in going also, please contact Carolyn Small at 415-4589 or 829-3757.

Cumberland Fire Department will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2015. Chief Dan Small would like to have a committee from Cumberland Historical Society help with plans for the celebration. If anyone is interested in this, please contact Carolyn Small at 415-4589 or 829-3757.

We have been able to secure a table at the Town Office on Election Day, June 10th.

CONDOLENCES: To the entire Wilson family on the sudden death of Stephen Wilson last month. Stephen was the brother of members Nancy Latham and Lynda Jensen, brother –in-law of member Brian Jensen, and uncle of Member Jeff Frost.

MAY STUMPER:

What was the original name for Memorial Day?



Photo, by Conant, Portland.

O. S. Thomas,



LOWER END OF THE HOUSE GIVEN BY OREN S. THOMAS.



RESIDENCE OF OREN S. THOMAS, CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND.

The Thomes Family in Cumberland: (excerpts from the 1880 HISTORY OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY)



ROBERT H. THOMES.

MOSES THOMES.

His father, Moses P. Thomes, was born Dec. 18, 1780, in Gorham, Me., and was the only son of Deacon Ebenezer Scott Thomes, who was born in Portland, and among its pioneers.

Moses P. Thomes was a farmer by occupation. He first married Jane Hasty. Their children were Abigail, Jane, Harriet S., wife of Albert Rideout. He was a member of the First Congregational Church. He died March 28, 1870. His first wife died in 1825; his second wife died Dec. 18, 1858.

He married, second, in 1830, Abigail, widow of Jacob Blanchard. Of this union was born one daughter, Harriet S., wife of Albert Rideout. He was a member of the First Congregational Church. He died March 28, 1870. His first wife died in 1825; his second wife died Dec. 18, 1858.

Moses Thomes was third son of Moses P. and Jane (Hasty) Thomes, and was born in Cumberland, Jan. 19, 1815, to which town his parents had removed from Scarborough in 1814. He received a fair education during his minority. Has spent his life as an agriculturist, except eight years which were spent at sea.

In December, 1845, he married Sarah A., daughter of Benjamin Whitney, of Cumberland. She was born in June, 1819. In politics Mr. Thomes, like his ancestors, is a Democrat. He is a member of the First Methodist Church of Cumberland.

Joseph Thomes, a brother of Moses Thomes, was born in Scarborough, May 10, 1812, and spent his life as a farmer, except three years at sea. He was a supporter of church and like interests, but never became a member of any church. He died Sept. 19, 1876. He was never married.

ROBERT H. THOMES.

Robert H. Thomes, fourth son of Moses P. Thomes, was born in Cumberland, June 16, 1817. His early life was spent at home on the farm and at school. Upon reaching his majority he went to Missouri, and after two years began his journey to the far West, crossing the Rocky Mountains in 1841. He was among the first to undertake this, then, hazardous journey. On arriving at San Francisco (then nothing but commons) he engaged in building houses and real-estate operations. In 1844 he took up

land, receiving deeds from the Mexican government which were afterwards ratified by the United States government. He paid particular attention to raising fine-bred horses and cattle, and at one time owned a herd of ten thousand cattle. He became the owner of twenty thousand acres of land, and amassed a large fortune. Prior to his death, March 26, 1878, he made large sales of his land to stock-growers, and sold the land where the village of Tahama (six hundred population) now is. He had no great desire for political notoriety, and cast his vote with the Republican party. He was a supporter of religious interests and of good society. His remains are buried in Tahama Cemetery, the spot being marked by a beautiful polished granite monument. His portrait accompanying this sketch is a contribution from his sister Jane. He was never married.

OREN S. THOMES.

His father, Ebenezer Scott Thomes, son of Moses P. and Jane (Hasty) Thomes, was born in the town of Cumberland in 1810, and died in 1837. He married Dolly Rideout, a native of the same town; received only a common-school education, and spent several years at sea. His wife died in 1847, leaving an only son,—Oren S.,—who was born May 24, 1827. His early manhood was spent with John Blanchard, working at the carpenter and joiner's trade. He afterwards engaged in general merchandise trade, with the firm-name of Thomes & Blanchard, at Cumberland Centre.

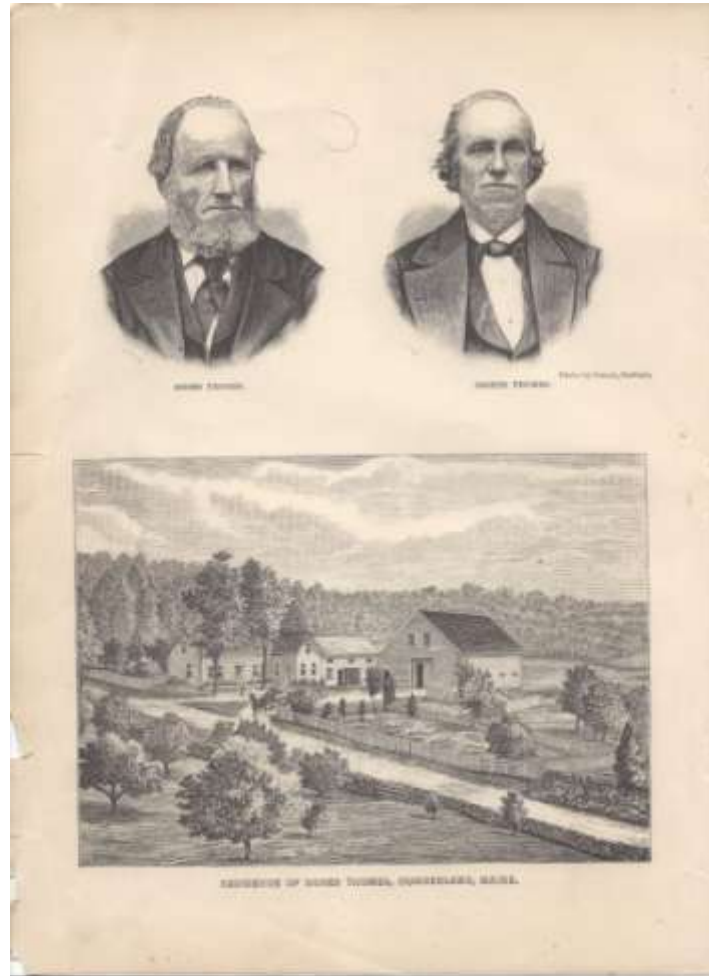
In the fall of 1877 he disposed of his interest in the business to attend to the settlement of the affairs of his uncle, Robert H., who died in California, leaving a large estate. In 1878 he returned from California, and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He married, Jan. 15, 1861, Abbie, daughter of Levi and Elizabeth Kempton Eveleth, of New Gloucester.

Mrs. Thomes is a native of Farmington, Me., being born Sept. 23, 1842. They have two children,—Robert S. and John B. Mr. Thomes is a Republican. Is now town treasurer, and has been president and secretary of the Cumberland Insurance Company for five years. He is a member of the Congregational Church of Cumberland, and holds the office of deacon in that church.



Oren Scott Thomes: (from Cumberland in Four Centuries) Oren Scott Thomes was born in Cumberland, May 24, 1837, the only child of Capt. Ebenezer and Dolly Rideout Thomes. He marries Abbie Eveleth of New Gloucester in 1861. In his youth he attended Cumberland schools. At eighteen he went to Boston where he served as an apprentice for three years, learning the carpenter and builders' trade and later attended Lowell Institute. He returned to Cumberland and had a store for general merchandise by the name of Thomes & Blanchard. This store was located at the present 299 Main Street in front of old Union Hall (now the office of the Maintenance Department of MSAD 51). In 1877 Mr. Thomes was called to California to take charge of the estate of his uncle Robert H. Thomes. The ranch of over twenty –six thousand acres of land was one of the largest land grants by the Spanish government, then part of Mexico and Mr. Thomes had the original deed. The ranch had 4,000 head of cattle, 500 horses and 400 hogs with over 200 Indians living and working on the land. His land was rich and he was the fortunate person to take out the largest run of gold, when one shovelful was valued at \$300.00. After settling the vast estate Mr. & Mrs. Thomes and their sons Robert and John returned to Cumberland and lived in their home at 42 Blanchard Road where he engaged in agriculture, ran a modern stock farm and carried on a grist and saw mill business. In 1882 he built a fine mansion across the street. "Daddy Thomes, so called by everybody in town, liked to recall that he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln as President. He was the carpenter who did the woodwork on Greely Institute and who remodeled the Congregational Church in 1907. He was a spry little man and even in his 80's the only

person in town who could climb to the weather vane of the church. He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 1911, at the spacious mansion which burned in 1913. Even at his advanced age he rebuilt the house, but not on such a grand scale. For some years he served as town treasurer, and was a member and deacon in the Congregational Church. He died in 1931.



UPDATE ON ACQUISITIONS:

Last month we received a few good Sweetser items from Connie and Dick Sweetser's attic cleaning. Amongst these treasures was a lovely fan. Connie and Carolyn subsequently visited the Saco Museum to view a fabulous exhibit of clothing from the 1700's to the 1950's, and picked up a paper entitled "The Language of Fans".

"A century ago, the demure hand-held accessory was used to convey messages more importantly than to produce a breeze. We are aware of nineteen of the gestures and their meanings."

WITH HANDLE TO LIPS: Kiss me

PLACING IT ON LEFT EAR: You have changed

FANNING SLOWLY: I am married

FANNING FAST: I am engaged

OPEN WIDE: Wait for me

DROPPING: We are friends

DRAWING ACROSS FOREHEAD: We are watched

CARRYING ON RIGHT HAND: You are too willing

DRAWING ACROSS CHEEK: I love you

CARRYING IN LEFT HAND: Desirous of acquaintances

IN RIGHT HAND IN FRONT OF FACE: Follow me

DRAWING THROUGH HAND: I hate you

TWIRLING IN LEFT HAND: I wish to get rid of you.

TWIRLING RIGHT HAND: I love another

CLOSING IT: I wish to speak to you

DRAWING ACROSS EYES: I am sorry

LETTING IT REST ON RIGHT CHEEK: Yes

LETTING IT REST ON LEFT CHEEK: No

OPEN AND SHUT: You are cruel



Nowadays ladies are less demure and have no problem letting folks know what they think and feel

ANSWER TO MAY STUMPER:

Memorial Day is a [US federal holiday](#) wherein the men and women who died while serving in the [United States Armed Forces](#) are remembered.¹ The holiday, which is celebrated every year on the final Monday of May, was formerly known as **Decoration Day** and originated after the [American Civil War](#) to commemorate the [Union](#) and [Confederate](#) soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in the military service typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while [Labor Day](#) marks its end. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in [national cemeteries](#). Memorial Day is not to be confused with [Veterans Day](#); Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.



From Memorial Day ceremonies of 2013 at the Cumberland Veterans' Monument at Moss Side Cemetery.

Membership Application

2013 -2014

CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 82

Cumberland, ME 04021

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN or CITY: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

Do you your newsletter sent by email _____ or by USPS _____ ?

WINTER ADDRESS: _____

DATES THAT THE WINTER ADDRESS APPLIES: _____

IF YOUR BUSINESS IS INTERESTED IN BEING A CORPORATE SPONSOR, PLEASE INDICATE: _____

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person _____ Corporate membership is \$100.00. _____

Donation to the furnace fund _____

COMMITTEES:

501c3 _____ Old House _____ Program _____

Refreshments _____ Special Events _____

Publicity _____ 100th anniversary of Cumberland Fire Department _____

75th anniversary of Cumberland Historical Society _____

Thanks to SEVEE & MAHER , our corporate sponsor.

